29th November 1928]

A.—(a) The free publication of audit reports in the district gazettes was discontinued as a measure of economy.

(b). The Government have no information.

(c) No.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to say whether any attempt was made to find out the extent of savings effected by such discontinuance ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" No, Sir."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask the Minister to look into the matter and give us some idea of the extent of savings ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Supply of district gazettes to co-operative societies.

*806 Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) why the free supply of district gazettes to such of the co-operative societies as applied for them has been stopped ; and

(b) whether the Government intend supplying them to the societies at half the rates of subscription ?

A.—(a) The free supply of gazettes was discontinued on financial grounds.

(b) No.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the Government considered this question as to whether these societies deserve this concession or not ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" It was duly considered."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" And then this was arrived at ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Yes."

Fisheries

Working of the Tanur Research station.

*807 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the objects with which the Tanur Research station was organized ;

(b) how far those objects have been achieved ;

(c) whether the Research assistant who was in charge of the station for the past some years has been transferred to a fish-curing yard ;

(d) whether the station is now in charge of a layman with no qualifications for research work ; and

(e) why a person with qualifications for research has not been appointed ?

A.—(a) The Tanur station was established for the purpose of ascertaining, by experiment, possible improvements in methods in the manufacture of cured fish, fish oil and guano.

(b) The station has accomplished much in determining the correct proportion of salt for curing, methods of sundrying and the

relative values of various methods of cure including most of those adopted in England and America and these improvements are gradually being adopted by the curers. The station also successfully demonstrated that fish oil and fertiliser could be separated effectively and profitably with the aid of a simple and inexpensive plant. This gave rise to the establishment of many private oil and guano factories on the West Coast. In 1922–23 which was the last abundant year for sardines there were 647 factories on the West Coast whose output was about 32,000 tons of guano and 12,000 tons of oil valued at Rs. 36 lakhs. The station has still to carry out further investigations into the industrial possibilities of fish oil and its by-products, i.e., refinement of the oil, conversion of the scrap (residual fish) into a much more valuable product than guano, viz., fish meal, the manufacture of Turkey red oil and of medicinal oil from fish oil. The attention of the hon Member is in this connexion invited also to paragraph 4 of the Government review on the Administration Report of the Fisheries department for 192 –26.

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) Yes, merely as a tentative measure and pending the receipt of the recommendations of the Fisheries Committee.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the assistant in charge of the Tanur Research station is doing now any kind of research work ? "

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" He is supposed to do."

Mr. A B. SHETTY :—" How can a man who has no qualification do any research work ? "

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" He has got some experience in research work."

Schools and co-operative societies conducted by the Fisheries department in Malabar and South Kanara.

*808 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of schools and co-operative societies started and conducted by the Fisheries department in Malabar and South Kanara (figures to be given separately);

(b) the number of societies that are in working order ; and

(c) whether any society has been started in South Kanara for the purchase and sale of fish or whether loans have been granted by the Government for societies in South Kanara for the purchase of boats and nets ?

A.—(a) The number of schools started and conducted by the Fisheries department is 27 in Malabar and 12 in South Kanara. Co-operative societies are not started by the Fisheries department in these districts. It is the Co-operative department which starts the Fishermen Co-operative Societies ; but the Fisheries department supervises the working of these societies. There are 43 such societies in Malabar and 21 South Kanara.

(b) Forty-one in Malabar and 21 in South Kanara.

(c) The answer is in the negative.